

RECEIVED

APR 08 2004

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

#10
5/12/04
mel

Attorney Docket: 061047-0265649
Serial Reference: SB-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:

Confirmation Number: 9997

FRANKEL *ET AL.*

Application No.: 09/492,534

Group Art Unit: 3621

Filed: January 27, 2000

Examiner: D.L. GREENE

Title: METHODS FOR OPERATING INFRASTRUCTURE AND APPLICATIONS FOR CRYPTOGRAPHICALLY-SUPPORTED SERVICES

April 5, 2004

RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the non-final official action mailed February 18, 2003, in which the claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. The applicants respectfully traverse in view of the following remarks.

Claim 1-42 are pending in this patent application.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-31, 33 and 35-42 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States patent no. US 5,732,400 to Mandler et al. ("Mandler"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because the teachings of Mandler fail to disclose, teach or suggest all the features recited in combination in the rejected claims.

For example, the teachings of Mandler fail to at least disclose, teach or suggest a method of "registering a subscriber entity of a plurality of entities at a principal entity of a plurality of entities", the method comprising "the principal entity storing the forwarded request and transmitting an acknowledgement message to the registrar entity, the acknowledgement stating acceptance and authentication/authorization information that the subscriber entity requires for the requested service" as recited in independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-31, 33 and 35-42.

The Office Action asserted that Mandler discloses all the features of claim 1 except the principal entity storing the forwarded request and transmitting an acknowledgement message to the registrar entity, the acknowledgement stating acceptance and authentication/authorization information that the subscriber entity requires for the requested service. (Office Action, page 2-3). For the missing features not disclosed by Mandler, the Office Action asserted, *inter alia*, that Mandler teaches accounting packages that establish Accounts Receivable (AR) databases storing pertinent data and teaches about providing instructions and rules to the main processor in how to conduct business.

Mandler merely discloses a system and method for enabling on-line transactional services among sellers and buyers having no previous relationship with each other. The system includes a financial clearinghouse for receiving a request for goods or services from a buyer and making a real-time determination of a risk classification of the buyer utilizing an on-line repository of credit information. The financial clearinghouse determines a risk-based discount fee as a function of the buyer's risk classification in order to establish a payment amount to the seller from the clearinghouse. If the transaction is authorized by the financial clearinghouse, the financial clearinghouse transmits the payment amount to the seller and transmits an invoice to the buyer for the purchase price of the transaction. The system can also include a broker coupled to the financial clearinghouse for providing an on-line order acceptance and processing capability between the buyers and sellers. See, e.g., Mandler, abstract.

Applicants respectfully submit that Mandler fails to disclose, teach or suggest a method of "registering a subscriber entity of a plurality of entities at a principal entity of a plurality of entities" as recited in claim 1. As described above, Mandler discloses an on-line transactional services system. Thus, while, in Mandler, buyers and sellers may be registered with a clearinghouse or broker and transactions may be facilitated between buyers and sellers through the clearinghouse or broker, Mandler fails to disclose, teach or suggest anything about registering a subscriber entity - a buyer in the context of Mandler - at a principal entity - a seller in the context of Mandler.

Further, as the Office Action conceded, Mandler fails to disclose "the principal entity storing the forwarded request and transmitting an acknowledgement message to the registrar entity, the acknowledgement stating acceptance and authentication/authorization information that the subscriber entity requires for the requested service" as recited in claim 1. However, the Office Action asserted that this is taught or suggested by Mandler. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Mandler does not disclose, teach or suggest "the principal entity storing

the forwarded request and transmitting an acknowledgement message to the registrar entity, the acknowledgement stating acceptance and authentication/authorization information that the subscriber entity requires for the requested service” as recited in claim 1.

Firstly, Mandler fails to disclose, teach or suggest a principal entity storing the forwarded request and transmitting an acknowledgement message to the registrar entity. While Mandler may disclose the clearinghouse storing certain data, Mandler does not disclose, teach or suggest a principal entity - a seller in the context of Mandler - storing a request. Storing a request by a principal entity is significant, for example, in the context of the use of a session identifier. See, e.g., applicants’ specification, page 18, lines 15-20 and claim 5. A session identifier may be linked to a particular request and accordingly, the stored request may be used in the processing of such a session identifier, for example as part of the processing of future responses to the request or as part of a message exchange or transaction associated with the requested service.

Further, Mandler fails to disclose, teach or suggest a principal entity transmitting an acknowledgement message, the acknowledgement stating authentication/authorization information that the subscriber entity requires for the requested service. While Mandler may disclose a seller providing a quote in response to a forwarded RFQ from the clearinghouse/broker and may disclose a seller accepting or rejecting a forwarded purchase order from the clearinghouse/broker, Mandler does not disclose, teach or suggest a principal entity - a seller in the context of Mandler - transmitting authentication/authorization information that the subscriber entity - a buyer in the context of Mandler - requires for the requested service. Such authentication/authorization information can be used, for example, where the subscriber entity wishes to securely receive the requested service from the principal entity. With such information, the subscriber entity may establish a secure connection with the principal entity for the provisioning of the requested service by the principal entity to the subscriber entity.

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, Mandler fails to disclose, suggest or teach all the features recited in claims 1-31, 33 and 35-42. Thus, the rejection of claims 1-31, 33 and 35-42 is traversed and claims 1-31, 33 and 35-42 are allowable.

Furthermore, claims 32 and 34 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Mandler in view of U.S. patent no. US 6,336,095 to Rosen (“Rosen”). As applicants submit above that independent claim 1 is not obvious in view of Mandler, applicants accordingly submit that claims 32 and 34, both of which indirectly depend from claim 1, are therefore also not obvious. Thus, for at least the above reasons, the

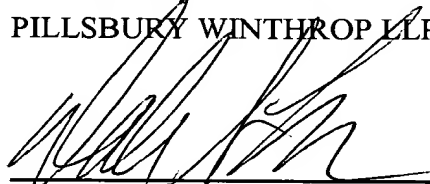
combination of Mandler and Rosen fails to disclose, suggest or teach all the features recited in claims 32 and 34. Thus, the rejection of claims 32 and 34 is traversed and claims 32 and 34 are allowable.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss them.

Should any fees be due, please charge them to our deposit account no. 03-3975, under our order no. 061047/0265649. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP



Dale S. Lazar

Reg. No. 28,872

Tel. No. 703-905-2126

Fax No. 703-905-2500

DSL/JGH
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000